

## UNTANGLING THE COMPLEXITIES OF DOSING ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS

### STATEMENT OF NEED

The new antipsychotic medications were given intensive regulatory scrutiny before they were released for clinical use. The registration studies that are required in the approval process undergo rigorous scientific review but include a wide, general range of patient types within the indicated diagnosis. But they exclude other patient types that are frequently seen in the real world. For example, these studies do not include the typical long-term care patient, who is usually elderly and suffers from dementia, or less frequently, schizophrenia. At the other end of the spectrum, the acutely relapsing patient, who needs immediate treatment under urgent circumstances, is also rarely included in the registration studies. While FDA labeling for each antipsychotic provides a recommended dose or dose range, these recommendations are based on the studies of the general population of patients and do not readily inform clinicians about use in the patient types discussed above. Current observation and evidence indicates that dosing strategies of each type of atypical antipsychotic agent varies by patient types. This psychLINK™ program will focus on current evidence and practice for dosing atypical antipsychotic medications.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this activity, the participant should be able to:

- Compare dosing recommendations from registration trials to doses of medications seen in the real world.
- Identify critical parameters clinicians must understand when selecting doses for antipsychotic medications.
- Describe essential facts that must be understood in order to dose antipsychotic medication for special populations: 1) the long-term care patient, and 2) the acutely ill patient.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Physicians, Pharmacists and Nurses

### CE CREDIT INSTRUCTIONS AND ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Successful completion of this CE activity (EDA #550-0821) includes the following:

- View the video presentation and review the syllabus.
- Complete the appropriate CE application and activity evaluation form. Excluding physicians, participants must complete the post-test.
- Submit forms to the site coordinator for processing.

In the interest of full disclosure, please be advised that commercial supporters may obtain lists of registrants for demographic purposes and internal assessment of the activity's efficacy.

Participants will receive a CE statement of credit within 4 weeks following receipt of the CE application and activity evaluation form. There is no fee for participating in this activity.

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**NURSES:** This activity for 1.2 contact hour(s) is provided by PRIMEDIA Healthcare, a division of PRIMEDIA Workplace Learning, which is accredited as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Accreditation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation refers to recognition of educational activities and does not imply approval or endorsement of any product.



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CPE Credit: 1.0 contact hour or 0.10 CEU(s)

Universal Program Number:

775-999-03-037-L01 (live presentation)

775-999-03-037-H01 (videotape)

Viewing location for this live presentation:

Additional dates for viewing the recorded activity:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 1, 2003**

**12:30 – 1:30 PM EST  
Rebroadcast 3 PM EST**

**Live on satellite and the web  
at [www.psychlink.com](http://www.psychlink.com)**

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